

the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or other electronic media.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick Opay, (301)713-1401 or Carrie Hubbard, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject modification to Permit No. 1429, issued on June 26, 2003 (68 FR 38011) is requested under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226).

Permit No. 1429 authorizes the permit holder to take loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), green (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), and Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) sea turtles to conduct sea turtle bycatch reduction research in the pelagic longline fishery of the western north Atlantic Ocean. Captured turtles are measured, flipper and passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagged, photographed and tissue sampled. Forty-five loggerheads are also being outfitted with a conventional satellite or a pop-up archival transmitting tag using the lanyard attachment method. The permit holder requests authorization to attach conventional satellite or pop-up archival transmitting tags to 15 leatherback sea turtles. The permit holder will use a hoist to bring the turtles on deck. The tags would be attached to the peduncle of each animal by lanyard and would provide information on the movements and post hooking survival of this species. This permit modification will be valid through the date of expiration of the permit on December 31, 2003.

Dated: September 5, 2003.

Carrie W. Hubbard,

Acting Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 03-23202 Filed 9-11-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Patent Cooperation Treaty

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the continuing information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before November 12, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Susan K. Brown, Records Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Office of Data Architecture and Services, Data Administration Division, 703-308-7400, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313, Attn: CPK 3 Suite 310; by e-mail at susan.brown@uspto.gov; or by facsimile at 703-308-7407.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to Rafael Bacares, Office of PCT Operations, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; by telephone at 703-308-6312; or by e-mail at rafael.bacares@uspto.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This collection of information is required by the provisions of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), a United Nations Treaty that was signed on June 19, 1970, by the 20 member states of the Paris Union for the Protection of Industrial Property, including the United States. The PCT became operational in June 1978 and is administered by the International Bureau (IB) of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva, Switzerland. The provisions of the PCT have been implemented by the United States in Part IV of Title 35 of the U.S. Code and Subpart C of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

The purpose of the PCT is to simplify the filing of patent applications for the same invention in different countries. The PCT provides a standardized filing format and procedure that allows an applicant to file one international application in one location, in one language, and pay one initial set of fees. The international application receives an international filing date (priority date) that serves as the actual filing date for the designated countries.

The information in this collection is used by the public to submit a patent application under the PCT and by the United States Patent and Trademark

Office (USPTO) to fulfill its obligation to process, search, and examine the application as directed by the treaty. The USPTO acts as the United States Receiving Office (RO/US) for international applications filed by residents and nationals of the United States. These applicants send most of their correspondence directly to the USPTO, but they may also file certain documents directly with the IB. The USPTO also serves as an International Searching Authority (ISA) and an International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA).

This collection currently includes 10 paper forms to assist the public with providing the required information for filing PCT applications and related documents. One additional form, Transmittal Letter to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) Concerning a Filing Under 35 U.S.C. 371 (PTO-1390), is being added to the collection. Some of the items in this collection do not have any associated forms. The submission of biosequence listings and related tables for associated PCT applications is covered under the separate information collection 0651-0024 Requirements for Patent Applications Containing Nucleotide Sequence and/or Amino Acid Sequence Disclosures. The PCT also permits electronic filing of international applications, as long as the confidentiality requirements are met. The USPTO does not currently accept electronic submissions for international applications, but an electronic application system that will be fully compliant with the PCT specifications for electronic filing is under development.

This collection was previously approved by OMB in December 2000 with terms of clearance instructing the USPTO to report the filing fees for this collection as part of its annual (non-hour) cost burden. In April 2001, OMB approved a change worksheet to add annual (non-hour) cost burden to this collection in the form of filing fees. OMB also approved another change worksheet in April 2001 to decrease the annual responses and burden hours for two requirements, Descriptions/claims/drawings/abstracts and Notices Effecting Later Elections (PCT/IB/328), in order to reflect the total burden for this collection more accurately.

In August 2001, OMB approved a change worksheet that moved the burden for two forms, Petition for Revival of an International Application for Patent Designating the U.S. Abandoned Unavoidably Under 37 CFR 1.137(a) (PTO/SB/61/PCT) and Petition for Revival of an International

Application for Patent Designating the U.S. Abandoned Unintentionally Under 37 CFR 1.137(b) (PTO/SB/64/PCT), into this collection from collection 0651–0031 Patent Processing (Updating). The Application Data Sheet, which was already an approved requirement in collection 0651–0032 Initial Patent Application, was also added to 0651–0021 due to a rule change permitting some PCT applications to include an Application Data Sheet. In April 2003, OMB corrected the total annual (non-hour) cost figure listed for this collection in the USPTO's inventory so that the annualized costs would be listed properly in thousands of dollars.

II. Method of Collection

By mail or hand delivery to the USPTO. Some communications related

to PCT applications may also be submitted to the USPTO by facsimile.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0651–0021.

Form Number(s): PCT RO/101/134/144, PTO–1382, PTO–1390, PCT/IPEA/401, PCT/IB/328, PTO/SB/61/PCT, PTO/SB/64/PCT, PCT/Model of power of attorney, PCT/Model of general power of attorney.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; businesses or other for-profits; not-for-profit institutions; farms; the Federal Government; and State, local, or tribal governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 379,065 responses per year.

Estimated Time Per Response: The USPTO estimates that it will take the public from 15 minutes (0.25 hours) to 8 hours to gather the necessary information; prepare the appropriate form, petition, or other request; and submit the information to the USPTO.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours: 367,842 hours per year.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Cost Burden: \$92,696,184 per year. The USPTO expects that the information in this collection will be prepared by attorneys. Using the professional rate of \$252 per hour for associate attorneys in private firms, the USPTO estimates that the respondent cost burden for submitting the information in this collection will be \$92,696,184 per year.

Item	Form No.	Estimated time for response	Estimated annual responses	Estimated annual burden hours
Request and Fee Calculation Sheet (Annex and Notes)	PCT/RO/101	1 hour	42,200	42,200
Description/claims/drawings/abstracts	N/A	3 hours	42,200	126,600
Application Data Sheet	N/A	23 minutes	3,000	1,140
Transmittal Letter to the United States Receiving Office (RO/US)	PTO–1382	15 minutes	29,500	7,375
Transmittal Letter to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) Concerning a Filing Under 35 U.S.C. § 371.	PTO–1390	15 minutes	22,385	5,596
PCT/Model of Power of Attorney	(¹)	15 minutes	30,700	7,675
PCT/Model of General Power of Attorney	(¹)	15 minutes	3,000	750
Extensions of time	N/A	15 minutes	25,000	6,250
Priority documents	N/A	15 minutes	63,000	15,750
Indications Relating to a Deposited minutes Microorganism ..	PCT/RO/134	15 minutes	400	100
Response to invitation to correct defects	N/A	2 hours	30,000	60,000
Request for rectification of obvious errors	N/A	30 minutes	2,000	1,000
Notice of Confirmation of Precautionary Designations	PCT/RO/144	15 minutes	260	65
Demand and Fee Calculation Sheet (Annex and Notes)	PCT/IPEA/401	1 hour	27,800	27,800
Amendments	N/A	1 hour	15,000	15,000
Notice Effecting Later Elections	PCT/IB/328	15 minutes	50	13
Fee Authorization	N/A	15 minutes	15,000	3,750
Petitions	N/A	4 hours	3,000	12,000
Requests to transmit copies of international application	N/A	15 minutes	2,300	575
Withdrawal of international application/designations of the state/demands/elections/priority claims.	N/A	15 minutes	5,000	1,250
Request/authorization to access international application	N/A	15 minutes	600	150
Translations	N/A	2 hours	16,000	32,000
Petition for Revival of an International Application for Patent Designating the U.S. Abandoned Unavoidably Under 37 CFR 1.137(a).	PTO/SB/61/PCT	8 hours	19	152
Petition for Revival of an International Application for Patent Designating the U.S. Abandoned Unintentionally Under 37 CFR 1.137(b).	PTO/SB/64/PCT	1 hour	651	651
Total	379,065	367,842

¹ Same as title.

Estimated Total Annual Non-hour Respondent Cost Burden: \$149,320,674 per year. There are no capital start-up costs, maintenance costs, or recordkeeping costs associated with this information collection. However, this collection does have annual (non-hour) costs in the form of translation costs, filing fees, and postage costs.

Under the terms of the PCT, the USPTO may require documents submitted for a PCT application to be translated into English when necessary. This requirement carries additional costs for the party to contract for a translation of the documents in question. Depending on the particular circumstances, the documents to be

translated can vary greatly in size. Firms that perform translation services do not have set fees for these services. The cost of translating a document is dependent upon the length of the document, the complexity of the document, whether the document is technical, and the languages that the document has to be translated to and from. Due to these

variables, many firms require customers to submit the documents in question to the firm so that they can be reviewed and a price quote prepared. There are translation firms that deal specifically with translations of intellectual property. Due to all of these factors, however, the USPTO cannot precisely estimate the costs that parties may incur for these translations. Based on experience, the USPTO believes that on average the documents to be translated will be 10 pages in length and that it

will cost \$150 per page for the translation, for an average translation cost of \$1,500 per document. The USPTO estimates that it receives approximately 16,000 English translations per year. Multiplying the 16,000 translation submissions by \$1,500 results in a total cost of \$24,000,000 per year. Therefore, the USPTO estimates a total non-hour cost burden of \$24,000,000 per year for English translations of non-English

language documents for PCT applications.

The total estimated annual filing fees for this collection are calculated in the accompanying chart. The fees listed in the chart represent an estimate of the average fees for filing the appropriate items associated with the requirements for an international application. The USPTO estimates that the total filing costs associated with this collection will be \$125,180,420 per year.

Item	Form No.	Estimated annual responses	Fee amount	Estimated annual filing costs
Request and Fee Calculation Sheet (Annex and Notes)	PCT/RO/101	42,200	\$2,396.00	\$101,111,200.00
Description/claims/drawings/abstracts	N/A	42,200	0	0
Application Data Sheet	N/A	3,000	0	0
Transmittal Letter to the United States Receiving Office (RO/US)	PTO-1382	29,500	0	0
Transmittal Letter to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) Concerning a Filing Under 35 U.S.C. § 371.	PTO-1390	22,385	0	0
PCT/Model of Power of Attorney	(¹)	30,700	0	0
PCT/Model of General Power of Attorney	(¹)	3,000	0	0
Extensions of time	N/A	25,000	0	0
Priority documents	N/A	63,000	20.00	1,260,000.00
Indications Relating to a Deposited Microorganism	PCT/RO/134	400	0	0.00
Response to invitation to correct defects	N/A	30,000	0	0.00
Request for rectification of obvious errors	N/A	2,000	0	0.00
Notice of Confirmation of Precautionary Designations	PCT/RO/144	260	104.00	27,040.00
Demand and Fee Calculation Sheet (Annex and Notes)	PCT/IPEA/401	27,800	778.00	21,628,400.00
Amendments	N/A	15,000	0	0
Notice Effecting Later Elections	PCT/IB/328	50	0	0
Fee Authorization	N/A	15,000	0	0
Petitions	N/A	3,000	130.00	390,000.00
Requests to transmit copies of international application	N/A	2,300	0	0
Withdrawal of international application/designations of the state/demands/elections/priority claims.	N/A	5,000	0	0
Request/authorization to access international application	N/A	600	0	0
Translations	N/A	16,000	0	0
Petition for Revival of an International Application for Patent Designating the U.S. Abandoned Unavoidably Under 37 CFR 1.137(a)—small entity.	PTO/SB/61/PCT	2	55.00	110.00
Petition for Revival of an International Application for Patent Designating the U.S. Abandoned Unavoidably Under 37 CFR 1.137(a)—large entity.	PTO/SB/61/PCT	17	110.00	1,870.00
Petition for Revival of an International Application for Patent Designating the U.S. Abandoned Unintentionally Under 37 CFR 1.137(b)—small entity.	PTO/SB/64/PCT	130	650.00	84,500.00
Petition for Revival of an International Application for Patent Designating the U.S. Abandoned Unintentionally Under 37 CFR 1.137(b)—large entity.	PTO/SB/64/PCT	521	1,300.00	677,300.00
Total		379,065	125,180,420

¹ Same as title.

Customers may incur postage costs when submitting the information in this collection to the USPTO by mail. The USPTO estimates that the average first-class postage cost for a mailed submission will be 37 cents and that up to 379,065 submissions will be mailed to the USPTO per year. The total estimated postage cost for this collection is \$140,254 per year.

The total non-hour respondent cost burden for this collection in the form of

translation costs, filing fees, and postage costs is \$149,320,674 per year.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c)

ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, e.g., the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 8, 2003.

Susan K. Brown,

Records Officer, USPTO, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Office of Data Architecture and Services, Data Administration Division.

[FR Doc. 03-23245 Filed 9-11-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

Availability of the Record of Decision for the Los Angeles Air Force Base Land Conveyance and Development Project

ACTION: Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Los Angeles Air Force Base Land Conveyance, Construction and Development Project, Transfer Portions of Private Development in Exchange for Construction of New Seismically Stable Facilities, Cities of El Segundo and Hawthorne, Los Angeles County, CA.

SUMMARY: The ROD is based on a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) with a notice of availability (NOA) published on July 3, 2003 **Federal Register** (FR): (Volume 68, Number 128) Page 39940) having a waiting period ending August 18, 2003. Due to an error, EPA issued an amended NOA, revising the FR Notice Public on July 3, 2003 stating the CEQ Comment Period previously Ending August 18, 2003 has been Corrected to CEQ Wait Period Ending August 4, 2003 **Federal Register**: July 11, 2003 (Volume 68, Number 133), Page 41338-41339)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jack Bush, Headquarter United States Air Force 703-604-5264, or Jason Taylor, Los Angeles Air Force Base, (310) 363-0142.

Pamela Fitzgerald,

Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-23211 Filed 9-11-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-05-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

HQ USAF Scientific Advisory Board

AGENCY: Department of the Air Force, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given of the forthcoming meeting of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Panel. The purpose of

the meeting is to brief the Air Staff and the Joint Staff on the results of the study. This meeting will be closed to the public.

DATES: 1 October 2003.

ADDRESSES: SAFTAS Conference Facility, 4th Floor, 1560 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22209.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maj Dwight Pavsek, Air Force Scientific Advisory Board Secretariat, 1180 Air Force Pentagon, Rm 5D982, Washington DC 20330-1180, (703) 697-4811.

Pamela D. Fitzgerald,

Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-23210 Filed 9-11-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-5-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Regarding the Proposed Leasing of Lands at Fort Bliss, Texas, for the Proposed Siting, Construction, and Operation by the City of El Paso of a Brackish Water Desalination Plant and Support Facilities

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: This announces the intention of the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss (SUAADACENFB) to prepare an EIS regarding the proposed leasing of lands at Fort Bliss, Texas, for the proposed siting, construction, and operation of a brackish water desalination plant (the "Project") by the City of El Paso, Texas. The purpose of the EIS is to evaluate the environmental impacts associated with the Project.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests for information may be forwarded to John F. Barrera, Fort Bliss Directorate of Environment, ATTN: ATZC-DOE-C, B624 Pleasonton Road, Fort Bliss, TX 79916-6812.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Barrera at (915) 568-3908.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Project has the potential to result in effects to the human environment in and around Fort Bliss and the El Paso City and County area. The study area for the environmental analysis is the eastern half of El Paso County, which includes Fort Bliss and most of El Paso City, as well as southern portions of Doña Ana and Otero Counties, New Mexico. The objective of the DEIS is to provide a planning and decision-making tool, serve as a public information

service, and a reference for mitigation tracking.

Alternatives that will be evaluated include locations for the Project and support facilities, desalination methodologies, and disposal options for the brine water resulting from the desalination process.

Issue of potential significance: The Hueco Bolson aquifer is a major source of water for Fort Bliss and the El Paso Region. This extensive underground water resource, located in large part under Fort Bliss training lands, contains significant quantities of brackish water. Brackish water is water designated by the Environmental Protection Agency as containing dissolved solids (salts) above the drinking water standards. The Project is proposed for the purpose of extending the life of fresh groundwater supplies by desalinating this brackish water for use by the City of El Paso and Fort Bliss. The Project would help meet existing and projected demands for potable water and extend the life of the Hueco Bolson aquifer.

The EIS will include analyses of environmental impacts from the following: (1) Alternative sites for the desalination plant and support facilities; (2) construction by the City of El Paso of the desalination plant and support facilities on Fort Bliss at one of three proposed locations; (3) alternative methodologies for desalination; (4) alternate methodologies for brine disposal, including reinjection and evaporation; and (5) effects of pumping brackish water out of the Hueco Bolson.

A public meeting in the vicinity of the installation and the general proposed location of the desalination plant will be held to facilitate input to the EIS process by citizens and organizations. The date and time of this meeting will be announced in the general media and will be at a time and location convenient to the public. To ensure comments are fully considered in the Draft EIS, comments and suggestions should be received no later than 15 days following the meeting. Comments and questions may also be e-mailed to desaleis@bliss.army.mil. Additional information may also be obtained at the following web site: www.bliss.army.mil.

Dated: September 5, 2003.

Raymond J. Fatz,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health) OASA(I&E).

[FR Doc. 03-23243 Filed 9-11-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M